import or Ferrous Scrap

846. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that although domestic scrap is available the import of ferrous scrap is allowed;

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof;

(c) the total ferrous scrap imported during the last three years, year-wise and the amount of foreign exchange involved year-wise;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the actual users are allowed a six months credit on the imported scrap while this facility is not available to local scrap dealers and as a result of this facility actual users go in for imported scrap;

(e) whether it is also a fact that lakhs of tonnes of steel scrap is rusting away in the country without any takers due to imports; and

(f) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider import policy in this regard, and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) (a) and (b) Indigenous scrap availability is not adequate to meet demand and hence import of Ferrous Scrap is allowed.

(c) Import of ferrous scrap, along-with foreign exchange spent, during the last three years is as under

Year	Quantity (In lakh tonnes)	Value (Rs. In crores)
1984-85 . . .	7.68	103
1985-86 . . .	14.52	239
1986-87 . . .	21.23	327

(d) Foreign suppliers offer six months credit to actual users of imported scrap. Local scrap dealers are free to offer similar credit. Imports are allowed to the extent of the assessed gap between demand and availabilty and not on the basis of credit terms offered by suppliers.

(e) No 'report of rusting of scrap, without any takers, have come to notice.

(f) The quantity of scrap imports is reviewed every year and imports are limited to the gap between assessed demand and indigenous availabilty.

Expenditure on Projects on Oilseeds Production

847. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) what is the total amount spent by Government on its projects to improve oilseeds production;

(b) the result achieved as a resulf thereof and whether there is any sign of the country achieving self-sufficiency in edible oils in the fore-seable future;

(c) whether any evaluation of the impact of the National Oilseeds Development Project has been made and if so what is the outcome thereof; and

(d) what further measures are proposed to be taken to improve the production of oilseeds and the time by when the country is likely to achieve* self-sufficiency in edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) So far during the Seventh plan period a sum of Rs. 46.90 crores has been released under Centrally Sponsored National Oilseeds Development Project, as Central share.

As a result, the production of oilseeds during 1986-87 is likely to be higher by 11 per cent over 1985-86 despite adverse weather conditions. Concerted efforts are under way to achieve self-sufficiency in oilseeds.